

acute pleurisy, and afterwards took diaphoretics and narcotics. He recovered in seven days. With very young, weakly and puffy children, warm baths, vapour baths, frictions with the oil of sweet almonds, or with a liniment containing laudanum are usually resorted to. M. Guersent thinks that opium ought not to be administered internally to children affected with contractions, except where its external use in the form of frictions is unsuccessful. Its internal use is not however so dangerous as has been commonly supposed.

We have seen it produce wonderful effects in some cases, and infants have occasionally taken enormous doses without showing any symptoms of congestion, the relief taking place on the first manifestation of the narcotic operation. Moisture of the skin is in general one of the most favourable signs, and this has led to the employment of diaphoretics, such as infusions of borage, the acetate of ammonia, &c. Dry frictions to the skin, vapour baths, bags filled with warm ashes, all contribute to the same effect. Purgatives should be resorted to for the purpose of keeping the bowels open. Dr. Hamilton has recommended their use and quoted cases showing their efficacy. Some English physicians have spoken of great advantages derived from the employment of the subcarbonate of iron, the doses of which they have carried to an enormous extent, (half an ounce daily.) It was administered unsuccessfully to the patient mentioned in the second case.

Contrivances to produce extension have been tried, and have succeeded in some instances where their employment has been seconded by the assistance of baths, emollients, &c. Extreme measures have sometimes been resorted to in some cases, such as the section of the muscles, but as this painful means was not successful, it has been entirely renounced.

For the purpose of procuring the introduction of fluids into the mouths of newly-born infants affected with trismus, it is useless and even dangerous to introduce the gum elastic cannula through the nares, it being sufficient to hold the infant in a lying position with its head strongly drawn backwards, and then introduce a tea-spoon between the dental arches and the sides of the cheeks. In addition to this, baths, diaphoretics, and gentle laxatives, if constipation exist, should also be tried.

11. *A Case of severe Dyspnoea, succeeded by Epilepsy, and cured by counter-irritation of the Occiput and back of the Neck.*—Communicated by W. ROBINER, Esq. Surgeon, Worcester.—“Thomas Watmore, aged 25, a prisoner in the county goal, under sentence of transportation for life, was brought from the tread-wheel to the hospital of the prison, on the 23d of March, 1828, with very hurried and feeble respiration, amounting to panting; a small and quick pulse, and great depression of spirits; countenance pale; tongue clean; bowels rather confined. There was neither pain, cough, nor mucous rattle, on inspiration. The inspirations were from 100 to 120 in a minute, and attended with a quick tumultuous action of the abdominal muscles. He bore pressure without pain, on every part of the abdomen, which was free from fulness, hardness, or tension. He was immediately ordered to bed, and a dose of calomel, a saline purgative, and some warm gruel, were given. He passed a sleepless night; the bowels acted freely; but in the morning, there was no amendment of his respiration. I took some blood from his arm, but faintness ensued, when only a few ounces had been lost. He seemed rather better in the evening, but passed a restless night, from the distress and hurry of his breathing.

“March 27th.—On repeating the bleeding this morning, although he had no dread of the operation, he suddenly became extremely faint, and respiration being suspended, apparently from spasm of the diaphragm, he had nearly expired. Camphor and opium were now had recourse to in considerable doses, but with no good effect. A dozen leeches were applied to the epigastrium, which bled freely, and he got a warm bath of the temperature of 90 degrees. He then appeared relieved for a few hours, but the hurried breathing returning, the leeches were repeated, followed by the warm bath, and a large blister to

the epigastric region; and his bowels, which were confined, were relieved by castor oil. In spite of these and similar remedies, the hurried breathing, sleepless nights, and mental despondency, continued with very few and short intermissions till the 26th of April, on which day his respiration suddenly became more hurried than ever, and this distressing affection continued unabated for several days and nights, depriving him almost of the power of speaking, and totally of rest. This state was succeeded by the most violent epileptic fits I ever witnessed, requiring, with only short intervals, four men to hold him for several days and nights. These fits left him very exhausted and weak, and the respiration remained unimproved. He was in this state when I requested Dr. Malden to visit him, who gave it as his opinion that the peculiar dyspnoea had, in all probability, depended upon irritation of the cervical portion of the spinal chord, and that the supervention of the epilepsy might be accounted for upon the supposition of this irritation extending to the base of the encephalon. With these views, he recommended the whole back part of his head to be shaved, and covered with a large blister, discharge to be encouraged from it, and before the blister healed, a seton to be put in the back of his neck. These directions were strictly followed. From this time he had no return of epilepsy; the dyspnoea also gradually went, and he had no relapse, although he remained in the prison some months afterwards.

"As I did not take notes of this case from day to day, I have not been able to supply all the dates, but my memory in the narration of it has been assisted by reference to my weekly journal.

"This poor man laboured under the greatest depression of spirits, arising from his sentence of transportation for life, of which he always spoke in the most desponding manner to the other prisoners. 'This I suspect to be the remote cause of his attack, and not the exertion on the tread-wheel, from which I have never witnessed any bad effects. I find he had always enjoyed good health previous to his imprisonment, and had never had fits or any similar attack before.'"—*Midland Med. and Surg. Reporter, for May, 1829.*

## OPHTHALMOLOGY.

12. *Musæ volitantes*.—M. NEUBER attributes *musæ volitantes*, to the presence of certain parasitic productions, analogous to the microscopie algi. He thinks that these anomalous productions have their seat in the aqueous humour, and in support of this opinion, he cites a case related by Rust, in which the *musæ volitantes* disappeared after the evacuation of the aqueous humour. The therapeutic indication would be to destroy the parasites or to separate them from the tissue where they have taken root. M. Neuber thinks that we may perhaps succeed in destroying them by the employment of the negative pile of a galvanic pile, but he adduces no fact in support of this conjecture.—*Bulletin des Sc. Medicales, Sept. 1832.*

13. *Observations on Cataract*. By Dr. FABINY, of Pesth.—Of 500 persons affected with cataract, in the principality of Siebenburgen, 268 were males, and 232 females. Of these 500, 14 were from 1 to 10 years of age.

"	16	"	11	20	"
"	18	"	21	30	"
"	18	"	31	40	"
"	51	"	41	50	"
"	102	"	51	60	"
"	112	"	61	70	"
"	109	over	70		

Dr. F. has operated upon 107 individuals, of whom 6 had both eyes operated upon. Of these operations, 7 were by keratonyxis, 2 by depression, and 100